

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL CHAMPION MIKE FOUT OF LAPORTE, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise before you to offer a word of congratulations to Mike Fout of LaPorte, Indiana. Fout traveled to San Diego on December 13, 2007 as the number five seed for the Foot Locker Cross Country Championship. He returned home to LaPorte the national champion.

To win the race, Fout defeated the second place finisher by seven seconds, for a total time of only 14:50. It was a personal best for Fout, who was not deterred even by the cool, muddy conditions on the day of the race.

Fout was neither favored to win the race, nor even to come in the top five, but his coach, as well as his family and friends, knew that he would be able to accomplish whatever he set out to do. He has now ensured himself a place in the history of the National Cross Country Championships by achieving the ninth fastest time ever in an event that has been held for twenty-nine years.

On his way to becoming the first Indiana runner to win the national championship, Fout stayed with the lead pack for most of the 5K race, and then broke away after the two mile mark. He maintained this position for the rest of the race, with no challengers coming forward to disrupt his lead.

All of this took place after Fout was crowned state champion of Indiana in the 3200-meter race, led team Indiana to an all-star event, and won the Midwest Regional Championship.

Mike Fout's hard work was given him the well-deserved title of national champion. But in congratulating him, I would also offer my congratulations to his coach Tim Beres, LaPorte High School and the greater LaPorte community for their support of the cross country program.

HONORING STEVE BENEFIELD'S SERVICE WITH THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Steve Benefield for his service with the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. Steve resigned from the Chamber on January 4 after serving a decade as its president.

Rutherford County has experienced tremendous growth in recent years, and the Chamber has been growing right along with it. The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce is

now the third largest in Tennessee, and Steve has been instrumental in spurring the county's economic development efforts.

He was a leader in efforts to bring a conference center to Murfreesboro, worked to acquire a new Chamber building and county visitor center, and furthered development at Smyrna's airport. His efforts have helped to ensure that Rutherford County will continue to be a desirable place to live and raise a family.

Steve has been a leader not only in business efforts, but also in the community. He is active in his church and with his sons' baseball teams, where he draws from his experience pitching for the Blue Raiders at our shared alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University.

The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce is losing a great asset, but I am happy Steve and his family are staying in Murfreesboro. I wish them all the best.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY TRAVIS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, this month Capitol Hill saw the departure of constitutional aficionado and political guru Cathy Travis—who recently retired after serving the House for 25 years, the last 18 as my communications director and senior advisor.

Cathy's dedication to and interest in public service has led her from Jonesboro, AR, to the corridors of the Capitol. Politics always fascinated her, and after graduation from Arkansas State University she went to work for former Congressman Bill Alexander (D-AR) as a press assistant. She then served in various capacities for the House Floor staff. After serving in the Chief Deputy Majority Whip's office for 6 months, she came to work for me.

Words cannot begin to describe what Cathy has meant to me, my staff, and the people of the 27th district of Texas. For 18 years, I have relied on Cathy for her professionalism, work ethic, and friendship. She has been a wonderful and effective spokeswoman for the issues of south Texas, and reporters always expressed their gratitude for her guidance and assistance.

Whether through her infectious laugh or her candid advice, Cathy always left a resounding impression on those she met and worked with. Members, staff, and reporters always took time out of their busy schedules to catch up with her and share some friendly chisme. During her last few weeks in my office, numerous people stopped to wish her best of luck and congratulate her on her retirement.

Cathy will now dedicate her energy to writing and marketing her books. Her first book, *Constitution Translated for Kids*, has received numerous accolades and will soon be published in Spanish. In the book, the original text of the Constitution is paired side-by-side with

a kid-friendly interpretation to pique interest and stimulate further discussion of American liberties.

Though I bid Cathy a sad farewell from my office, it will certainly not be a goodbye. I look forward to seeing her around the Capitol when she comes up to catch up with old friends.

Cathy remains a trusted member of my family, and I will always seek her counsel on matters political and personal. I wish her the best of luck during the new phase of her life.

HONORING THE LA VERGNE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of the top marching bands in the nation: La Vergne High School's Wolverine Marching Band, which represented middle Tennessee on November 17 at the U.S. Scholastic Band Association Grand National Championships.

This was the Wolverine Marching Band's first time to compete in the USSBA championships. Only 68 marching bands throughout the Nation were invited to the competition held in Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to the LHS band placing eighth overall, the school's drum line placed fifth, and the color guard placed 11th.

The theme of La Vergne High School Music is "where perfection and hard work meet." It must be very gratifying to the students, staff, parents, and supporters to see the rewards of countless hours of practice. I congratulate the band on their accomplishments and wish them continued success in the future.

I commend the Wolverine Marching Band: Director of Bands Edward Freytag, Assistant Director of Band Chris Crumley, Visual Coordinator Tim White, Color Guard Instructor Megan Taylor and Kirby Cooper, Band Members: Sarah Baron, Melissa Barscz, Brad Beal, Allison Beck, Taylor Bentley, Casey Bidini, Katelyn Blair, Chelsea Boulanger, Joey Brewer, Leonard Brown, Tony Brown, William Bryant, Jacob Burton, Tyler Channell, Jordan Cooley, Porsha Cooper, Rachel Covert, Tyler Covert, James Day, Shanice Derrick, Catherine Drescher, Tara Dryden, Amber Dugger, William Duke Jr., Dylan Duke, Carl Dye, Shelby Erny, Aeron Falknor, Cheyanne Fletcher, Jessica Forbis, Loretta Fougeray, Courtney Frierson, Matthew Fusco, Endre Gereben, Andres Gonzalez, Matt Goodman, Katie Green, Alexandria Hahn, David Hardy, Ross Harvey, Elizabeth Henderson, Jessica Henderson, Brianna Herron, Matt Hickman, Curt Hills, Chassity Hoback, Zach Hodges, Andre Holt, Mary Huckleberry, Brooks Hunter, Wesley Hurless, Greg Jackson, Ethan Jerrell, Felicia Johnson, Elise Jones, Emily Jones, Will Kelley, Jeremiah Lang, John Leaver, Brittany Lee, Ginger Levinson, Kwesi Manuel, Jennifer

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